







# Welcome to Psychology

Welcome to A' Level Psychology. This is an engaging subject with plenty of relevance to life. The material you will work on in this assignment is part of the specification for Psychology A level in the topic of Memory. The task is based on the type of experiments that we conduct and will prepare you for the course and help develop skills and insight into the course content. You can use suitable A level websites from the internet or take a loan of a Psychology Year 1 textbook from the dept.

Websites: www.simplypsychology.org or www.tutor2u.net/psychology

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and therefore all work must be written in your own words and referenced.

If you require further assistance please email Mrs. H Fay hfy@cardinalnewmanschool.net

### TRANSITION TASK

Task 1, Topic: Marvellous Memory

## **Mini Experiment:**

In this experiment you can test as many people as you like but you must have a minimum of 10. As the experimenter you should read out one line at a time of the triangle of numbers below to your participant. When you have finished reading out the line, your participant should recite back to you as many of the numbers they can remember. Record how many numbers they recall correctly on each line. Only read the line once and at the same speed throughout, quite quickly. The line at which they make their first mistake is their digit span, so if they get a number incorrect or in the wrong order on line 6, stop the experiment and record that as their digit span.

Now think about and explain:
1) What was the maximum amount of numbers your participants could recall from any line? (If you used more than one participant, take the average).

2) What do your results suggest about memory?

#### Now research and answer the following...

- 3. What is memory? Does it have different types? If so, explain them...
- 4. What is the capacity and duration of the average memory in humans?
- 5. What did George Miller do in 1956? What did he discover about memory?
- 6. How does this link to the results from your experiment above?

#### **Extension:**

Attempt to write up these results as a psychological report. The headings are;

Abstract (A quick summary of the results)

Introduction (details on why this was conducted, general theories which support the aims)

**Method** (all the details on how you did it, sample of participants, ethics, consent obtained)

Results (what did you find out? Needs a presentation of raw data in some form, table/pie chart etc.)

**Discussion** (explanation of findings, limitations/difficulties, implications and suggestions for further research)

**References** (remember to cite your sources!)

Best of luck!

#### Still interested???

Watch a video lecture by Professor Jens Bo Neilsen on the amnesia case study of HM on YouTube by searching for 'Intro to memory/Encoding Part 1a'. You can also read more about HM including how he gave permission for his brain to be studied after his death at: http:bigpictureeducation.com/brain-case-study-patient-hm

You can see a video about the case study of Clive Wearing on YouTube by searching for 'Clive Wearing, Living Without Memory'.